

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, the Title, the specification and claims 1-15 have been amended. No new matter is presented and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended Title, specification and claims are respectfully requested.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are pending and under consideration.

Claims 1-15 are rejected.

CLAIMS 1-15 STAND REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(e) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY SHILOH

Claims 1, 2 and 8-12 are amended to clarify the patentable distinctions subject matter of the present invention over Shiloh.

Shiloh is based on a U.S. provisional application filed March 23, 2000, the complete application for which was filed on March 22, 2001.

On the other hand, the priority date of this application is January 17, 2001, which is prior to the filing date of the complete application of Shiloh. An English language translation of the certified copy of the priority application is enclosed herewith, so as to overcome the prior art status of the portion of Shiloh not included in the U.S. provisional application of Shiloh that is, the "new matter" added with respect to the provisional application disclosure, when filing the complete Shiloh application.

INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1, 2 AND 9:

The independent claims 1, 2 and 9 are directed to a communication method, an electronic commercial transaction method and a managing apparatus that respectively communicate, transact and manage information using "virtual personal information of a virtual world" having a representation format similar to that of real personal information of a real world. This "virtual personal information" includes a virtual address in a virtual city within the virtual world.

Since the communication and the electronic commercial transaction are made without having to communicate real personal information via a network, the present invention can improve security without limiting the environment in which a service may be used or limiting the access to the service.

On the other hand, both Shiloh's provisional application and Shiloh's complete application fail to teach or suggest such communication or transaction in the virtual world using the virtual personal information. Both of Shiloh's applications merely teach a transaction in the real world using virtual personal information. Further, the virtual personal information in both of Shiloh's applications is not related to a virtual address in a virtual city within a virtual world. In fact, Shiloh's applications present no teaching or suggestion of a virtual city in a virtual world, or of virtual personal information related to a virtual address in the virtual city.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are patentable over Shiloh.

With regard to claim 10 in particular, it should be noted that the delivery and/or settlement of items depending on commercial transactions made, using the virtual personal information, is not disclosed in Shiloh's provisional application; moreover, the disclosure related to the delivery and/or settlement of items was added in Shiloh's complete application.

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 12:

As discussed above, both of Shiloh's applications merely teach a transaction in the real world using virtual personal information. The virtual personal information, in both of Shiloh's applications, is not related to a virtual address in a virtual city within a virtual world. In both Shiloh's applications, there is no teaching or suggestion of a virtual city in a virtual world, and virtual personal information related to a virtual address in the virtual city.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the foregoing has demonstrated that claims 12-15 patentably distinguish and, accordingly, are allowable over Shiloh.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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